



Edenton survives mistakes to top Currituck — 7A

Panel to mull future of former DF Walker School

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners is forming a task force to look for a way to save the former D.F. Walker School building.

The commissioners' Planning and Enterprise Committee recommended provisionally that the building be torn down. But public comment at the board's Oct. 7 meeting encouraged efforts to save the building, and the task force was formed as an

intermediate step. During public comment, Carolyn Anthony said great thought and concern should be given to the future of the D.F. Walker School Building. The building still has a strong structure and it could

be beneficial to the community, she said. The former school building also has a great sentimental value to citizens, she said. It would be an ideal site for educational space or some other beneficial com-

munity use, according to Anthony. "Know that there is a great deal of interest in preserving the D.F. Walker Building as a part of our history," Anthony said. Anthony suggested the formation of a task force

to find a common sense answer to the question of what to do with the building. Commissioner Emmett Winborne, who chairs the Planning and Enterprise Committee, explained that

See TO MULL, 4A

WINDY CONTROVERSY



PETER WILLIAMS/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Kevin Chandler, a spokesman for Apex Clean Energy, discusses the Timbermill wind energy project with a visitor at last Thursday's Perquimans County Business Expo.

Resident calls for wind energy moratorium

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A citizen asked the Chowan County Board of Commissioners last week to follow the Perquimans commissioners in imposing a moratorium on the development of large-scale wind energy facilities.

Patti Kersey, a former member of the Chowan Planning Board and an author of the planning board report from April of this year that recommended a one-mile setback and other stringent standards be incorporated into the county's wind energy ordinance, told the commissioners at their Oct. 7 meeting that given

the board's recent decision not to approve the stronger standards for wind energy generation facilities, she would suggest a different approach. The board should adopt a moratorium on utility-scale wind energy development as the Perquimans commissioners did, Kersey said.

Perquimans officials decided they wanted to ensure their wind energy ordinance was based on the most recent independent science, and imposed a 120-day moratorium in order to provide adequate time for a review of the ordinance, she said. "What a refreshing contrast," Kersey said of Perquimans' 120-

day review period - noting the Chowan commissioners allowed the planning board only 30 days for its review. There is recent independent data that needs to be taken into consideration, she said. "Respectfully, y'all need to

See MORATORIUM, 2A

Expanded permit requirements eyed

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Developing a dollar store or similar business in Chowan County's commercial zoning districts soon could become a bit more challenging.

The county has seen some growth in that type of business in the past year, with a Dollar General opening at the intersection of Rocky Hock Road and Virginia Road and a Family Dollar near White Oak Elementary School at the intersection of Sandy Ridge Road and Virginia Road.

The county's commercial districts, B-1 and B-2, currently are located in the area around the Northeastern Regional Airport. But County Planner Elizabeth Bryant, answering a question from Chowan Board of Commissioners Chairman Jeff Smith at the Oct. 7 meeting of the county commissioners, said property owners in other areas of the county might wish to rezone their property to B-1 or B-2 if they thought it might make the property more marketable.

The county commissioners have been generally favorable toward business development in the county but also have expressed an interest in maintaining sufficient oversight of the development of larger retail stores in order to protect

See PERMIT, 3A

Wet weather spell damages local crops

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County soybean, peanut and cotton crops all have seen some damage due to extremely wet weather, according to an area field crops specialist.

"The peanuts are hurt some but I don't think a tremendous amount," said Paul Smith, an area field crops specialist with the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service who is based out of Gates County.

The loss at this point probably is 5-10 percent for peanuts, Smith said, though he added that another big rain could mean a loss of 30-40 percent.

In fact, a 30-40 percent loss is what is expected for the peanut crop statewide, according to Bob Sutter of the N.C. Peanut Growers Association.

Sutter said that counties to the south such as Bladen, Columbus and Duplin have gotten more rain and have had more peanuts already on the ground when the rains came. There is concern as to whether growers in those areas will be able to harvest everything that is out there, Sutter said.



SUTTER



TROXLER

See DAMAGES, 3A

County authorizes money for repairs

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners voted last week to authorize \$100,000 worth of long-awaited upgrades to county buildings.

Commissioner Emmett Winborne, who chairs the Planning and Enterprise Committee, acknowledged during the board's Oct. 7 meeting that the commissioners had been putting off maintenance items. The action taken at the meeting is intended to address some of those needs.

A motion by Commissioner Keith Nixon to authorize County Manager Kevin Howard to spend up to \$100,000 on capital improvements passed unanimously.

Although there was

some discussion about purchasing an ambulance out of capital funds, the board opted instead to purchase the ambulance out of the Emergency Medical Service budgets.

Howard said the county had an opportunity to get a very good deal on an ambulance that has only 45,000 miles on it.

Nixon said purchasing the ambulance from other funds rather than the capital fund would leave more money in the capital fund to pay for work on buildings.

The projects that the \$100,000 is expected to go toward include \$31,900 for stabilization and renovation of the Shepard Building, a smaller brick structure located on the campus of

See REPAIRS, 4A



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